

AC 4482(3) WHITEHAVEN

WHITEHAVEN
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report

OF THE
Medical Officer of Health,
For the Year 1923.

MALCOLM MANSON, M.C., M.A., M.D., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

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To the Whitehaven Rural District Council.

WHITEHAVEN,

April 23rd, 1924.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health for the year 1923. The form of the Report has been prescribed, as in previous years, by the Ministry of Health, and the information supplied is that asked for by the Ministry. I am glad to be able to say that the year has been on the whole a very favourable one, the birth-rate being slightly higher than that of the previous year, the general death-rate a little lower, and the infantile mortality rate not only very much lower than that of the previous year, but much the lowest figure ever recorded in the Rural District. In the Appendix to the Report I have supplied the Statistical Tables, which have always been found in previous reports, and preserve the continuity of statistical information relating to the health of the district.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

MALCOLM MANSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

WHITEHAVEN RURAL DISTRICT.

 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1923.

I.—GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of the Rural District of Whitehaven in acres	...	74,402
Population (Registrar General)	... ..	15,240
Number of Inhabited Houses (1921)	... ..	2,875
Number of families or separate occupiers (1921)	... ..	2,969
Rateable Value...	... ..	£118,919
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	... ..	£495

II.—EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

			<i>Total.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>
Births—Legitimate	...	...	321	178	143
Illegitimate	...	...	14	7	7
Birth-rate (R.G.)—21.9					

Deaths	... ..	166	86	80
Death-rate (R.G.)—10.89				

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth—

From Sepsis	... ..	...	...	0
From Other Causes	... ..	...	...	0

Deaths of infants under one year of age per thousand live births—

Legitimate, 56.7 Illegitimate, 0. Total, 53.73.

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	... ..	...	1
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	... ..	...	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	... ..	...	3

It will be seen from the information given in Section I. that the population of the Rural District of Whitehaven is stated as 15,240. This is the figure estimated by the Registrar General, from the information in his possession as to movement of population, and excess of births over deaths, and I am of opinion that it is approximately correct. It shows an increase of 200 over the figure given for the previous year, which was 15,040.

The nett deaths for the year, after making the necessary alterations for inward and outward transfers, numbered 166, as compared with 181 a year ago, and 184 the average for the preceding five years. The Death-rate was 10.89 per thousand, which is an improvement on the figure of a year ago, 12.03, and almost as good as the figure for 1921, which was 10.72. The Death-rate for England and Wales as a whole was 11.6.

The births registered during the year numbered 335, giving a Birth-rate of 21.9 per thousand, a slight improvement on the figure for the previous year, which was 21.4, and better than that of England and Wales, which was 19.7.

The deaths of children under one year numbered 18, giving an Infantile Mortality Rate of 53.73 per thousand live births. This is much the lowest rate ever recorded in the Whitehaven Rural District and is a very great improvement on the rate of 1922, which was 99.07. The average rate for the ten years, 1913 to 1922, was 95.9. The rate for the whole country for 1923 was 69, which is 15 points higher than that for the Rural District. No deaths of illegitimate infants occurred during the year.

Table I. in the Appendix to this Report gives the Vital Statistics of the District for the year 1923, and also for the previous five years for the sake of comparison. Table II. gives a comparison of the Birth, Death and Infantile Mortality Rates of the District for 1923, with those of England and Wales as a whole, certain groups of towns, the County of Cumberland, and the Urban and Rural Districts of Cumberland.

Table III. gives the principal causes of death during the year, among which it will be seen that Cerebral Hæmorrhage takes the first place, being responsible for 18 deaths. Tuberculosis comes next with 16 deaths, then Heart Disease with 14, Bronchitis with 13 and Cancer with 11.

Of the 166 deaths occurring at all ages during the year, 70 or 42% occurred in persons over 65 years of age. Of these 70 deaths, 14 occurred in the age period 65—70, 17 in the period 70—75, 25 in the period 75—80, 8 in the period 80—85, 5 in the period 85—90, and 1 over 90.

Table IV. gives the deaths from the eight principal zymotic diseases, only seven in all, which is a very satisfactory record, giving a death-rate from this group of diseases of 0.45. Scarlet Fever caused two deaths, Measles and Diphtheria one each, and Diarrhœa and Enteritis three.

Table V. shows the causes of the 18 infantile deaths which occurred. It will be seen that the three causes first in the list, which might be grouped together as Congenital Defects and Prematurity, account for eleven of the eighteen deaths. This is a very large proportion to be attributable to one group of causes, and practically every one of these eleven deaths occurred within a very few weeks of birth, several of them within a few days or even hours. Deaths from other causes are steadily diminishing in number, but from this group the number shows little change in recent years, and I have little doubt that it is only by increased attention being paid by mothers to the care of their health during the later months of pregnancy that any diminution of this number will take place. Maternity and Child Welfare work in a scattered rural district is not easy, and is almost altogether post-natal in character, attention being devoted chiefly to the care of the nursing mother and her baby. The ante-natal care necessary to reduce these early deaths would have to be given in most part by the private practitioner or midwife engaged for the confinement, and it is with difficulty that many women in such circumstances can be persuaded to avail themselves of such care.

III.—NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

DISEASE.	Total Cases Notified.	Under 1 Year.	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	Over 65	Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Diphtheria ...	6	...	...	1	...	1	2 (1)	1	...	...	1	...	...	6	1
Scarlet Fever ...	18	...	...	...	1	1	6 (1)	5 (1)	3	2	...	...	...	13	2
Enteric Fever ...	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Puerperal Fever ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	0
Pneumonia ...	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	1	...	1 (1)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Erysipelas ...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	0
Chickenpox ...	3	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0

The ordinary figures in the above table represent the cases notified, while the figures enclosed in brackets represent the number of deaths occurring at the different ages.

III.—NOTIFIABLE DISEASES—*continued*.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0—I ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
I—5 ...	...	...	I	I	...	...	...	I
5—10 ...	I	...	...	I	...	...	...	I
10—15 ...	...	I	I	2	...	...	I	I
15—20 ...	2	5	I	...	...	I	...	I
20—25 ...	I	3	...	I	...	2	...	I
25—35 ...	I	3	...	I	I	I	I	...
35—45 ...	I	I	...	...	I	I	...	...
45—55 ...	3	2	...	...	I	...	...	...
55—65 ...	...	...	...	...	...	I	...	...
65 and upwards	I	I	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	10	16	3	6	3	6	2	5

IV.—CAUSES OF SICKNESS.

It will be seen from the tables given in the preceding Section that the total number of cases of infectious disease notified during the year was 66. This is an increase of 21 over the number notified during 1922, which was 45, the increase being almost altogether in cases of Tuberculosis.

Diphtheria. Only six cases of this disease were notified during the year, all of which were removed to hospital. During the previous year only four cases were notified, so that in two years only ten cases of Diphtheria occurred, a very marked change from the preceding two years, when the disease was epidemic in the district for several months, and the number of cases notified was 122. Of the six cases notified during the year, five made good recoveries. The sixth, unfortunately, died in hospital.

Scarlet Fever. Eighteen cases of Scarlet Fever were notified, thirteen of which were removed to hospital, while five were nursed at home. The cases were widely scattered throughout the district and were distributed over the year, so that there was nothing in the nature of an epidemic, and it was difficult to connect more than a few of the cases with one another. Two deaths occurred, both in the same family, the children being in a state of bad neglect, for which the parents were very properly prosecuted and punished.

Lethargic Encephalitis. One case of this disease was notified, but death took place before the diagnosis could be confirmed.

Measles. Measles was epidemic in several parts of the district during the early months of the year, and again in the autumn, but the disease is not notifiable, and no estimate of the exact number of cases occurring could be made. Fortunately, the disease was mild in character, and only one death occurred.

Tuberculosis. Twenty-six cases of Tuberculosis of the lungs, and nine cases of other forms of Tuberculosis were notified during the year, this being a much larger number of notifications than in previous years. Of the twenty-six pulmonary cases, eight died during the year, and of the nine cases of Tuberculosis affecting other organs, two died during the year. The total number of deaths during the year was sixteen, no notification of Tuberculosis being received in three cases, except the death certificate. This suggests that, as in former years, a considerable proportion of tubercular cases are not notified until they have reached such an advanced stage that there is little to be looked for from sanatorium treatment, and it is obvious that before much improvement can be looked for in the comparatively heavy incidence of Tuberculosis throughout the district earlier recognition and earlier notification of the disease must become general.

V.—NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITALS AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT.

These remain the same as described in the Annual Report for 1921.

VI.—LABORATORY WORK, &c.

The arrangements remain the same as described in the Annual Report for 1922.

VII.—SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

The ordinary work of the Sanitary Inspector has been carried on as usual during the year, with tact and vigour, and a large number of improvements have been effected. A record of the work done and the results obtained will be found in the Inspector's Annual Report, and in Tables VI., VII., VIII. and IX., which have been prepared by the Inspector and are given in the Appendix to this Report.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops. In the early part of the year a systematic inspection of practically all the dairy farm premises in the Rural District was carried out by the Inspector and myself. While there was evidence that a certain amount of improvement was taking place in the conditions under which milk is being produced, it was obvious that in the vast majority of cases much yet remains to be done before the standard of cleanliness attained can be thought satisfactory. As a result of the inspection, and representations made to owners and occupiers, there has been further improvement both in the structure of the cowsheds and in the conditions prevalent in them. The great majority of the cowsheds were found to be overcrowded, and as the Regulations under the Dairy Cowsheds and Milkshops Order, in force in the district, were not capable of remedying this state of affairs, the Council, on the advice of its officials, obtained the consent of the Ministry of Health to an alteration of the Regulations, which, when it comes into force after July 31st, 1924, will give the Council fuller powers for dealing with overcrowding. During the year a number of samples of milk produced in the district were examined bacteriologically for evidence of contamination, and while some of the results reported were extremely bad, others were fairly good, and, as was to be expected, it was found that the best results were obtained from farms where the conditions under which milk was produced and handled were most satisfactory.

Water Supply. The new gravitation water supply to the village of Distington, from a collecting area on Owsen Fell, has been completed during the year, and the resulting improvement has been very great. Extensions have also been made in the Cold Fell Intake Works, while improved provision has also been made for the increasing population in the Thornhill neighbourhood by the construction of a new reservoir at Winscales, with a capacity of 500,000 gallons.

Drainage and Sewerage. Sewage disposal works were completed during the year for a collection of houses at Winder, in the Parish of Lamplugh, and for ninety houses at Pica, in the Parish of Distington.

VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

This consists as formerly of the Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspector.

IX.—HOUSING.

The same progress has not been made in housing during 1923 as was made during the two previous years, the two Council Housing Schemes at Thornhill and Moresby Parks, respectively, having been completed before the end of 1922, and no new schemes having been entered on. The need for more houses, at different parts of the district, is still, however, very great, and the Council has wisely decided to take advantage of any new Government Housing Scheme which may be put forward. Until more houses are built, no steps can be taken to close those houses in the district which are unfit for human habitation, of which quite a number exist. Meanwhile good progress is being made in dealing with such housing defects as can be remedied without closure of houses, and during the year quite a large number of houses have been dealt with in this way. I have remarked in previous reports that this is work which takes up a very great deal of the Sanitary Inspector's time, but it is work which is well worth doing, and the results, although often a very poor index of the amount of work entailed, are usually much appreciated by the tenants.

Although there were no houses built by the Council during the year a few were built in different parts of the district, by private builders, the total number so provided being 19.

The following return gives a record of the housing inspections carried out during the year :—

I.—UNFIT DWELLING-HOUSES.—INSPECTION.

Inspection.

- | | | |
|-----|--|------|
| (1) | Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | 411 |
| (2) | Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910 | 318 |
| (3) | Number of houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | Nil. |
| (4) | Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to in (3)) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | 289 |

II.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Council's Officers 247

III.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

A.—Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning Act, 1919—

- | | | | |
|-----|--|--------|-------------|
| (1) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | ... | 10 |
| (2) | Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit— | | |
| (a) | By Owners | ... .. | 9 |
| (b) | By Council in default of Owners | ... .. | 1 |
| (3) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close | ... | <i>Nil.</i> |

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts—

- | | | | |
|-----|--|--------|-------------|
| (1) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | ... .. | 21 |
| (2) | Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied— | | |
| (a) | By Owners | ... .. | 21 |
| (b) | By Council in default of Owners | ... | <i>Nil.</i> |

C.—Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909—

No proceedings were taken under these Sections.

APPENDIX TO ANNUAL REPORT.

TABLE I.—VITAL STATISTICS OF THE WHITEHAVEN
RURAL DISTRICT DURING 1923 AND FIVE
PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year.	Popula- tion estimat'd to Middle of each year.	Nett Births belonging to the District.			Nett Deaths belonging to the District.					
		Total No.	Rate per 1,000 popu- lation.	Illegitimate No.	Under 1 Year of age.				At all Ages.	
					Total No.	Rate per 1,000 Live Births	Illegiti- mate No.	Rate per 1,000 Illeg. Births.	No.	Rate per 1,000 popu- lation.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.
1918	13,135	360	24·46	..	30	83·30	..	..	206	15·18
1919	{ 14,137* 13,571†	318	22·49	15	30	94·33	6	400·0	189	13·91
1920	14,112	401	28·41	26	37	92·24	1	38·46	186	13·18
1921	14,820	366	23·34	20	29	79·23	2	100·0	159	10·72
1922	15,040	323	21·4	10	32	99·07	0	..	181	12·03
1923	15,240	335	21·9	14	18	53·73	0	..	166	10·89

*—For calculation of the Birth-rate } Figures supplied by the Registrar
†—For calculation of the Death-rate } General.

TABLE II.

Showing a Comparison of the Birth, Death and Infantile Mortality Rates of Whitehaven Rural District, with those of (1) England and Wales as a whole ; (2) 105 great towns, including London ; (3) 157 smaller towns ; (4) London ; (5) County of Cumberland ; (6) Urban Districts of Cumberland ; and (7) Rural Districts of Cumberland.

	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Infantile Mortality Rate.
England and Wales	19·7	11·6	69
105 County Boroughs and great towns, including London ...	20·4	11·6	72
157 smaller towns (1921 Census populations 20,000 to 50,000) ...	19·8	10·6	69
London	20·2	11·2	60
County of Cumberland	21·1	12·7	74
Urban Districts of Cumberland ...	22·3	13·5	75
Rural Districts of Cumberland ...	19·5	11·7	68
Whitehaven	21·9	10·9	54

TABLE III.
CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1923.

Causes of Death.	Males.	Females.
All causes	86	80
Enteric Fever	..	..
Smallpox	..	..
Measles	1	..
Scarlet Fever	..	2
Whooping Cough	..	..
Diphtheria	..	1
Influenza	4	1
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	..
Meningococcal Meningitis	..	..
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	3	6
Other Tuberculous Disease	2	5
Cancer, malignant disease	6	5
Rheumatic Fever	..	1
Diabetes	..	..
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, &c.	10	8
Heart Disease	9	5
Arterio-sclerosis	3	..
Bronchitis	7	6
Pneumonia (all forms)	5	1
Other Respiratory Diseases	2	3
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	..	1
Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)	2	1
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	..	..
Cirrhosis of Liver	..	..
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	..	3
Puerperal Sepsis	..	..
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	..	..
Congenital Debility & Malformation, Premature Birth	5	6
Suicide	2	..
Other Deaths from Violence	3	2
Other Defined Diseases	19	23
Causes ill-defined or unknown	2	2

TABLE IV.—DEATHS FROM EIGHT PRINCIPAL
ZYMOTIC DISEASES IN 1923.

Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	0
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	1
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	2
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	0
Typhus	...	...	...	...	...	0
Typhoid (Enteric) Fever	...	...	...	...	...	0
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	...	...	...	...	...	1
Diarrhœa and Enteritis (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...	...	3
Total						7

Zymotic Death-rate per 1,000 per annum—0.45.

TABLE V.—CAUSES OF INFANTILE DEATHS.

Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	2
Debility, Atrophy and Marasmus	...	...	...	...	5
Congenital Defects	...	...	...	...	4
Bronchitis and Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	2
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	0
Diarrhœa and Enteritis	...	...	...	...	2
Convulsions	...	...	...	...	2
Other Causes...	...	...	...	...	1
Total					18

Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births—53.73

TABLE VI.—SHOWING CHARACTER AND NUMBER
OF NUISANCES FOUND AND ABATED.

Accumulation of Manure	25
Standing liquid filth	2
Pail Closets and Privies	38
Water Closets	16
Dwelling-houses overcrowded	2
" " in a filthy condition	2
Dead Rats in basement	1
Slaughter-house Refuse	3
Urinals	3
Keeping of Animals	1
	93

TABLE VII.—INSPECTIONS UNDER THE HOUSING,
TOWN PLANNING, &c., ACT, 1909, MADE
DURING THE YEAR 1923.

PARISH.	Number of Houses Inspected.	Number of Informa- tion to Remedy Defects.	Number of Statutory Notices Served.	Number of Notices Complied with.	Number of Cases where work is in hand.	Number of Notices not com- plied with.
Distington	45	45	2	40	4	1
Ennerdale & Kinniside	2	2	...	2	...	...
Gosforth	16	15	...	12	2	1
Haile	3	3	...	3	...	...
Hensingham & Weddicar	76	63	7	57	3	3
Lamplugh	21	20	...	15	2	3
Lowside Quarter	5	5	...	4	.	1
Moresby	22	18	...	14	3	1
Netherwasdale	3	3	...	3	...	...
Parton	48	44	...	39	3	2
Ponsonby	3	3	...	3	...	...
Preston Quarter	4	4	2	4	...	...
Sandwith & Rottington	6	6	...	5	...	1
St. Bees	22	20	...	16	3	1
St. Bridget's	10	8	...	6	1	1
St. John's	25	24	1	18	3	3
Salter and Eskett	7	6	...	6	...	...
Total	318	289	12	247	24	18

TABLE VIII.—SHOWING THE CHARACTER AND NUMBER OF DEFECTS
FOUND TO EXIST.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.				DRAINAGE.						DWELLING HOUSES.						
In-sufficient.	DEFECTIVE.		Insufficient.	Choked or Defective.	Untapped Drain Inlets.	DEFECTIVE.				Roofs and Chimneys.	Windows.	Ceilings.	Floors.	Paving of Yards.	Spouting.	Doors.
	Privies, Pail Closets & Ashpits.	W.C.'s and Flushing Apparatus.				Ventilation Shafts.	Sub-soil Drains.	Sinkstone Pipes.	Gullies.							
40	39	122	42	93	5	3	4	2	5	188	44	36	63	102	34	18

TABLE VIII.				DWELLING HOUSES.						WATER SUPPLY.			TOTAL.
				DEFECTIVE.			Damp Walls.	Insufficient Light and Ventilation.	Dangerous Buildings.	Insufficient and Defective.		Waste.	
Stairs.	Plaster.	Fire Grates and Ovens.		28	37	30				22	1		
5													

continued

TABLE IX.—SHEWING THE NUMBER OF REGISTERED WORKSHOPS IN THE RURAL DISTRICT OF WHITEHAVEN DURING THE YEAR 1923, AND THE NUMBER OF PERSONS EMPLOYED THEREIN.

Nature of Business.	No. of Work-shops.	Number of Persons Employed.		
		Male.	Female.	Total.
Joiners	11	19	..	19
Blacksmiths	9	15	... v	15
Dressmakers	6	...	18	18
Tailors	4	8	2	10
Shoemakers	10	19	...	19
Cloggers	3	5	...	5
Painters	3	6	...	6
Plumbers	2	3	...	3
Pickles, Sauces, &c. ...	1	2	...	2
Confectioners	6	...	13	13
Motor Repairers	4	9	...	9
Total	59	86	33	119

12, CORKICKLE,

WHITEHAVEN,

3rd April, 1924.

Whitehaven Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Seventh Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1923.

Tables VI., VII., VIII. and IX. have been prepared for and included in the Report of the Medical Officer of Health.

Infectious Diseases.—Except for Tuberculosis, where thirty-six cases were notified as compared with eighteen cases in 1922, the District has been comparatively free from infectious diseases.

Removal of infectious persons to hospital is always urged. Only three cases of Scarlet Fever were treated at home. Two cases of Scarlet Fever were removed to the School Sanatorium at St. Bees. All other cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria were removed to the Infectious Diseases Hospital at Galemire.

During investigation of the outbreak of each case the source of infection was almost invariably traced.

Forty-six rooms occupied by infectious persons were fumigated.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.—Works of Sewerage and Sewage Disposal for the Council's houses at Thornhill, in the Parish of St. John, Winder, in the Parish of Lamplugh, and Pica, in the Parish of Distington, have been completed and are satisfactory.

A scheme for dealing with sewage from thirteen houses at Crossgates, in the Parish of Lamplugh, is being prepared.

No further progress has been made with schemes for Fell Dyke, in the Parish of Lamplugh, and for Sandwith.

I would again urge the necessity for some scheme of drainage for a part of the Parish of Gosforth, known as Gosforth Gate.

Water Supply.—Works to supply Distington with water from Owsen Fell are completed. An abundant supply of wholesome water is now available to all parts of the Parish. The largely increased pressure on old service pipes and taps has revealed many defects. Replacements are constantly being made.

A new Reservoir, having a capacity of 500,000 gallons, has been constructed at Winscales, and an extension of the Intake Works at Cold Fell carried out.

The main near Sherwen's Terrace has been extended to Lynwood, in the Parish of St. John.

New water service pipes have been provided for houses in the following Parishes :—Distington, Parton, St. John and Salter and Eskett.

Housing.—During the year nineteen dwelling houses have been erected, all by private enterprise.

There is still a great need and demand for houses at a reasonable rental. The continued shortage of houses makes it impossible to deal with many known cases of overcrowding.

Considerable improvements and repairs to houses have been carried out. As the demands made upon owners are of carefully considered reasonableness, the works necessary are usually executed after informal notice and a personal interview. This method, whilst it entails much more work, seems to be justified by results and by mutual good feeling.

Works were executed by the Council in default of one owner only.

One certificate was issued under the Increase of Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restriction) Act, 1920.

Closet Accommodation.—Approximately there are 1,576 water-closets, 1,016 privies, and 396 pail closets in the District. Where drainage and water supply are satisfactory, every effort is made to secure conversion of privies and pail closets into water-closets.

Scavenging.—The Council contract for the removal of house refuse in the following Parishes (or parts thereof) :—St. John, Moresby, Hensingham, Lamplugh, Parton, Distington and St. Bees.

Arrangements have been made for the collection of house refuse from premises at Cringlethwaite and Scurgill once every week, instead of emptying ashpits once every month. Occupiers were informed by handbill of the altered arrangements, and requested to burn all paper, vegetable refuse and other combustible material.

Dairies and Cowsheds.—There are seventy-two registered milksellers in the District. Regular visits of inspection are made. Forty-two informal notices to provide adequate means of lighting, ventilation and suitable pavement of floors and channels, to limewash and cleanse, and to remove accumulations of manure, have been served and complied with.

Three new cowsheds have been erected.

During the year copies of the Council's Regulations with respect to Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops and a Memorandum on the Factors Essential to the Production of Clean Milk has been given to each Milkseller and Producer.

It is gratifying to report marked improvement in many instances both with regard to cleanliness of the premises and animals.

There is still room for improvement in air space in many of the older buildings. These will be dealt with as soon as necessary structural alterations can be reasonably enforced.

Bakehouses.—There are six bakehouses on the Register. Sixteen visits of inspection were made. Two informal notices were served in respect of defective closet accommodation and limewashing, and were complied with.

Slaughter-houses.—There are five slaughter-houses on the register. One informal notice, with regard to a breach of bye-laws respecting cleanliness, was served and complied with.

On and after the 9th of April, 1923, certain Sections of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, were, by Order of the Ministry of Health, declared to be in force.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

JASON ELLWOOD.





